Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of providing access to information stored in diverse formats, the method comprising:

receiving from an application a semantic request having a request name that semantically identifies a type of information sought by the request, the semantic request comprising a uniform resource identifier;

converting the received semantic request to a generic request having corresponding request parameters;

initiating a creation of an object for receiving and converting the semantic request;

opening a database connection within a data access system corresponding to the semantic request;

requesting properties of data corresponding to the semantic request, if a database connection has not previously been opened;

transmitting the converted request to the a data access system;

receiving data from the data access system corresponding to the converted request; and

providing the data to the application.

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2.   (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising typecasting the data received from the data access system before providing the data to the application.

3.   (Canceled).

4.   (Canceled).

5.   (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim [[4]] 1, wherein the object is a group object configured to access information about groups of entities.

6.   (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim [[4]] 1, wherein the created object requests the properties of a resource corresponding to the converted request.

7.   (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the converted request comprises parameters corresponding to, but not present in, the semantic request.

8.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of establishing an object for simplifying data access, the method comprising:

receiving a generic data access command for communicating with a data access system;

creating a semantic data access command that corresponds to the generic data access command, the semantic data access command comprising a uniform resource locator; and

providing a semantic object configured to receive the semantic data access command from an application, and provide a corresponding generic data access command to a data access system.

9.   (Canceled).

10.   (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 8, wherein the semantic object is configured to open a database connection corresponding to the semantic data access command and request properties of data corresponding to the semantic data access command, if a database connection has not previously been opened.

11.   (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 8, wherein the generic data access command comprises parameters corresponding to, but not present in, the semantic data access command.

12-17. (Canceled).

18.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[12]] 8, further comprising a portal that provides access to the user applications.

19.   (Currently Amended) An article comprising a tangible machine-readable medium storing instructions operable to cause one or more machines to perform operations comprising:

receiving from an application a semantic request having a request name that semantically identifies a type of information sought by the request, the semantic request comprising a uniform resource locator;

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converting the received semantic request to a generic request having corresponding request parameters;

initiating a creation of an object for receiving and converting the semantic request;

opening a database connection within a data access system corresponding to the semantic request;

requesting properties of data corresponding to the semantic request, if a database connection has not previously been opened;

transmitting the converted request to the data access system;

receiving data from the data access system corresponding to the converted request; and

providing the data to the application:

20.   (Original) The article of claim 19, further comprising instructions operable to cause one or more machines to typecast the data received from the data access system before providing the data to the application.

21.   (Canceled).

22.   (Canceled).

23.   (Currently Amended) The article of claim [[22]] 19, wherein the object is a group object configured to access information about groups of entities.

24.   (Currently Amended) The article of claim [[22]] 19, wherein the created object requests the properties of a resource corresponding to the converted request.

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25.   (Original) The article of claim 19, wherein the converted request comprises parameters corresponding to, but not present in, the semantic request.

26.   (Currently Amended) An article comprising a tangible machine-readable medium storing instructions operable to cause one or more machines to perform operations comprising:

receiving a generic data access command for communicating with a data access system;

creating a semantic data access command that corresponds to the generic data access command, the semantic data access command comprising a uniform resource locator; and

providing a semantic object configured to receive the semantic data access command from an application, and provide a corresponding generic data access command to a data access system.

27.   (Canceled).

28.   (Previously Presented) The article of claim 26, wherein the semantic object is configured to open a database connection corresponding to the semantic data access command and request properties of data corresponding to the semantic data access command, if a database connection has not previously been opened.

29.   (Previously Presented) The article of claim 26, wherein the generic data access command comprises parameters corresponding to, but not present in, the semantic data access command.